

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 119909
ORIGIN ARA-03

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /004 R

66011
DRAFTED BY ARA/CEN:DWELTER
APPROVED BY ARA/CEN:WMATTHEWS
-----066168 110239Z /14
O 110133Z MAY 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY CARACAS IMMEDIATE

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FOR DEP ASST SEC SALLY SHELTON

FOL RPT MANAGUA 2031 SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO GUATEMALA, SAN JOSE,
SAN SALVADOR & TEGUCIGALPA DTD 03 MAY 78

QUOTE: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MANAGUA 2031

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ELAB, PINS, PINT, SHUM, NU
SUBJECT: MAY DAY ACTIVITIES

1. MAY 1 DID NOT LIVE UP TO ITS BILLING AS A RUMORED KEY DATE FOR
REVOLUTIONARY DEMONSTRATIONS FOR FSLN ATTACKS. PRES SOMOZA SPOKE TO
A RALLY IN THE NATIONAL PLAZA OF PROBABLY 10-20,000 PERSONS (60,
000 ACCORDING TO GON-ORGAN NOVEDADES), AT WHICH HE REITERATED HAS
ALREADY ANNOUNCED INITIATIVES FOR FREE TRADE UNIONISM AND GREATER
SOCIAL BENEFITS FOR THE POOR, AND DENOUNCED COMMUNISM.

2. THE OPPOSITION SOCIAL CHRISTIAN (STN) AND COMMUNIST (CGT-I)-
LED CONFEDERATIONS WERE BANNED FROM HOLDING SIMULTANEOUS MEETINGS
AND THE NATIONAL GUARD (GN) WAS TURNED OUT TO ENFORCE THE BAN. THERE
WERE A FEW ARRESTS AT THE SITE WHERE THE OTHER RALLY WAS TO TAKE
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PAGE 02 STATE 119909

PLACE, INCLUDING DR. RAFAEL CORDOVA RIVAS (THE SUCCESSOR TO PEDRO
JOAQUIN CHAMORRO AS PRESIDENT OF UDEL). THE POLOFF AND AMB EXPRESSED
CONCERN TO THE GON, AND HE WAS RELEASED AFTER 15 HOURS OF DETENTION.

3. ANTI-REGIME DEMONSTRATIONS IN OTHER CITIES THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY
WERE ALSO QUICKLY DISPERSED. SEVERAL REPORTS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED OF
INSTANCES OF THE GN USING FORCE, SUCH AS CLUBBING, IN ADDITION TO

THEIR STANDARD CROWD CONTROL TACTICS OF TEAR GAS AND BULLETS IN THE
AIR. THERE IS ONE UNCONFIRMED REPORT OF A PERSON WOUNDED DURING THE
CONFRONTATIONS. SOLAUN UNQUOTE VANCE

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Concepts: COMMEMORATIVE CELEBRATIONS, MAY DAY
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